



Customer: Kalani High School
Web Site: <http://kalanihs.k12.hi.us>
Customer Size: 130 employees
Country or Region: United States
Industry: Education

Customer Profile

Founded in 1958, Kalani High School is a fully accredited four-year institution located in the Kahala section of East Honolulu, Hawaii.

Software and Services

- Services
 - Microsoft Live@edu
 - Microsoft Exchange Hosted Services
- Microsoft Office
 - Microsoft Office Live Workspace 2007
 - Microsoft Office OneNote 2007
 - Microsoft Office Project Standard 2007

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Teachers Enjoy Reliable E-Mail and Collaboration While School Saves Money

“Teachers using Live@edu can be confident that their e-mail messages to students are getting through, and no longer are wasting time on bounced messages.”

Ryan Kusuda, Instructor of Programming and Computer Technology, Kalani High School

Kalani High School needed a more reliable way for teachers and students to communicate and collaborate. After initially considering Google Apps for Education, the school decided to implement Microsoft Live@edu hosted communication and collaboration services. Now, e-mail messages are getting through, the school is reducing its paper use by half, and teachers are finding it easier to implement group-based assignments. As well, the school is maintaining better contact with students after they graduate and minimizing IT costs.

Business Needs

Like many public schools in the United States, Kalani High School, in Honolulu, Hawaii, has long relied on information technology to help faculty, staff, and students better communicate and collaborate. Until recently, however, the information technology at Kalani High School did not include a reliable e-mail system for helping teachers interact directly with students.

According to Ryan Kusuda, Instructor of Programming and Computer Technology at Kalani High School, teachers did use e-mail for communicating with students who

happened to have their own accounts. “But, because the accounts were not controlled by the school, we could never know whether a given account was active or inactive,” he explains. “As a result, up to 10 percent of those e-mail messages bounced, which hindered communication and required the school’s limited IT staff, also part of the faculty, to take time away from teaching to address the problem.”

Moreover, because teachers lacked reliable e-mail communications with their students, they tended to rely heavily on paper. “In our resource-thin environment, it made no sense to spend a lot of money

on paper, or to have teachers spending up to 20 minutes a day at the copier," Kusuda says. "This was not the best use of their valuable skills and knowledge."

Solution

In 2009, Kusuda saw the opportunity to address the problem as part of the school's One-to-One Computer Project, an initiative designed to put a Netbook computer into the hands of every student by the 2011–2012 school year. To support the initiative in a cost-effective way, the school needed a centralized, Web-based teacher/student e-mail system, and this led Kusuda and his colleagues to Microsoft Live@edu hosted communication and collaboration services.

"We briefly considered Google Apps for Education, but when we saw Live@edu, it was the obvious choice," Kusuda says. "It is tightly integrated with Microsoft Office, which students not only are using while they are in school, but also will be using in college and work."

The Microsoft Live@edu solution at Kalani High School, which is hosted at Microsoft Exchange Labs, currently includes licensing for Microsoft Office Outlook Live, Office Live Workspace, and programs from the 2007 Microsoft Office system, as chosen by Kusuda and his colleagues. The solution is used predominantly by 580 ninth- and tenth-grade students, and 50 teachers and counselors in core disciplines and electives.

Benefits

With Live@edu, teachers are using e-mail and online workspaces to communicate and collaborate with students and are moving away from paper, saving the school money and making more productive use of their own time. Other benefits include support for group-based teaching and learning,

having a way of staying in touch with students after they graduate, and cost efficiencies from having a communication and collaboration solution that requires practically no maintenance or support.

Having E-Mail That Works

With Live@edu, Kalani High School now enjoys a centralized and controlled approach to student e-mail accounts and names. According to Kusuda, "Teachers using Live@edu can be confident that their e-mail messages to students are getting through, and no longer are wasting time on bounced messages."

Maximizing Resources

Because Kalani High School teachers are using Office Live Workspace for managing student assignments, they are using far less paper than before. "With Live@edu, the school is spending just half of what it used to on paper," Kusuda says. "Even more important, teachers don't have to spend time at the copier or carry home piles of composition books for grading."

Allison Agee, Instructor of Social Studies at Kalani High School, is especially happy with this aspect of the Live@edu solution. "I take home just my laptop, because everything I need for communicating and collaborating with the students is available through Office Live Workspace," she says. "Using Office Live Workspace is so much faster and easier than working with paper that for the first time in my teaching career I finished grading early."

Employing Group Learning

With Live@edu, teachers are also using Office Live Workspace to support group-based learning projects. "With Office Live Workspace, students have a natural and seamless way of participating in group

projects," says Lisa Hayashi, Instructor of Social Studies at Kalani High School. "This makes it easier for teachers to use group-based learning to help prepare students for college and careers."

To benefit even further from group-based learning, students are using Microsoft Office OneNote 2007 and Microsoft Office Project 2007 as part of the Live@edu environment. "With Office Project, in particular, students learn to manage a demanding and complex project," says Nathan Davis, Instructor of Social Studies at Kalani High School. "This is a critical skill in both higher education and work."

Tracking Success

Whether students are attending college or starting careers after they graduate, Kalani High School can maintain contact with them more easily than ever before. "It is always a challenge to determine how students are being served by the learning they did here," says Gerald Teramae, Principal at Kalani High School. "Having Live@edu e-mail accounts that stay with students after they graduate will help us address this challenge in years to come."

Minimizing Costs

Even better, adds Kusuda, Kalani High School is offering all these benefits to teachers and students at a bargain, thanks to the fact that Live@edu is a free service and hosted offsite. "Not only did I set up Live@edu in about an hour and a half, but since then, I have spent less than an hour each week on maintenance and support," he says. "That is nothing compared to the demands of an onsite solution, such as dealing with sudden power outages and other events beyond our control. With offsite hosting, we don't worry about any of that."